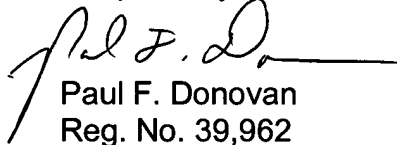


REMARKS:

This Preliminary Amendment is being filed concurrently with a Divisional Application for U.S. Serial No. 10/300,686, filed November 20, 2002. The apparatus claims 1-10 are the subject of the '686 application. The method claims 11-13 are the subject of the Divisional Application filed concurrently herewith, claims 1-10 having been cancelled pursuant to this Amendment. Claims 11-13 remain pending in the subject application.

Entry of this Amendment and prosecution on the merits is respectfully requested. In the event that there are any remaining issues to be addressed, in order to expedite the prosecution of the subject application along, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,


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